

How to Sow Alfalfa.

It is generally considered best to sow alfalfa on fall plowing. If no land which it is desired to seed was fall plowed, however, early spring plowing may be made to do nearly as well. Plow the ground deep—you can't plow too deep—as soon as it is dry enough to work, and harrow it well. The harrowing should be repeated every few days until seeding time, both to keep down all weed growth and to reduce the surface soil to the finest possible tilth.

Alfalfa seed should not be sown very early. It is well enough to sow red clover while there is yet frost in the ground, and before spring is more than a promise, but alfalfa seeding should be deferred until warmer weather. Nothing is gained by sowing earlier than the middle of April, and there is seldom loss through waiting until May. Light frosts do not kill the young plants, but they so retard their growth that later sown plants often make the best showing by June 1.

Liberality in the use of seed is advisable. It is very difficult to re-seed thin patches, and the best plan is to guard against having those thin patches by heavy seeding. The rule is to sow twenty pounds of seed per acre, but this will bear some modification. On bottom land, if the soil is in good condition, and you intend to roll well after seeding, fifteen pounds per acre will be ample to produce a thick stand. If the soil is not in the best condition for the germination of the seed, proportionately more will be required. On upland, twenty pounds of seed per acre is the minimum amount to be recommended, and if the ground is not in good condition it will be economy to sow twenty five pounds.

Some alfalfa growers still follow the practice of seeding with a nurse crop, but there is little in favor of this method and much against it. The removal of the nurse crop is always at a time when heat and dry weather are very hard on the unprotected young alfalfa plants. If any nurse crop is sown it should be harvested with a header, so that there may remain a considerable length of stubble to serve as protection for the alfalfa.

The seed may be sown either broadcast or with a drill, but whichever method is selected, care should be taken that the seed is well covered. Common grass seed needs but the slightest covering, but alfalfa, like all leguminous plants, does better with moderately deep seeding. An inch is none too deep. After seeding, the ground should be run over with a roller, to pack the earth firmly about the seed and insure its early germination and rapid growth.

At a meeting of the senators, representatives, and national committee of the People's party at the rooms of Senator Stewart on Monday night of this week, it was resolved to open national headquarters here in Washington, and Hon. H. E. Taubeneck was selected to take charge of the work. Funds were pledged to defray the expense and a vigorous campaign may be expected. Chairman Taubeneck will enter upon his duties the first week in January, and everything will be done possible to enable the people of all the states to give an expression at the polls in the next election of their condemnation of the plutocratic methods that now rule the nation. All reports from the different states are encouraging, and reformers everywhere should take fresh hope and work as never before.—National Watchman, December 29, 1893.

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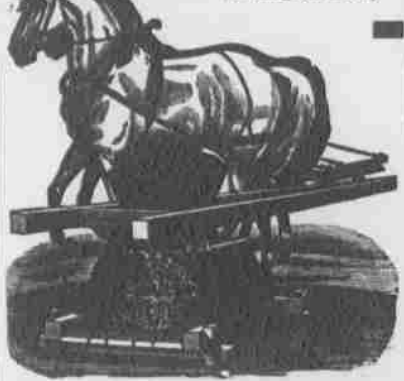
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